

California and Western Medicine

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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

CORONADO ANNUAL SESSION: MAY 25-28

Annual Session of California Medical Association Only One Month Distant.—"Time marches on" and, almost before we may realize it, the sixty-fifth annual session at San Diego will have convened, adjourned and taken its place in the records of events that have been.

In this issue are printed the programs of the general meetings, the twelve scientific sections, the Woman's Auxiliary, and also the order of business of the House of Delegates, together with other activities or features, such as scientific and commercial exhibits, all of which will be in evidence at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego for this year's annual session, officially announced to commence on Monday, May 25, and to carry through Thursday, the 28th.

On Sunday, the Cancer Commission and pathologic programs will be given. On that day, too, the first annual conference of standing committees with State Association officers will take place, and also the first meeting of the State Council.

The business, scientific and entertainment programs, as given on pages 305 to 329, reveal the wide scope of the Association's work, and a careful inspection of the many presentations should assure the intense interest which they will necessarily have for all members who register.

* * *

"California Medical Association Day" at the Exposition, Tuesday, May 26.—Mention has already been made, on page 76 of the February issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, of the splendid exhibits in the Hall of Medical Science of the San Diego Exposition. A letter received from Dr. Lyell C. Kinney, ex-president of the California Medical Association, states that on Sunday, March 15, more than 9,000 persons visited those exhibits which, at that time, had been only partially installed—showing clearly the interest taken by the laity in all such public health demonstrations when properly presented.

Tuesday, May 26, has been designated as "California Medical Association Day," and all signs point to a gathering of medical men and women on that occasion that will prove a peak attendance in annual session records.

* * *

Hotel Reservations Should Not Be Delayed. The last two issues of this magazine mentioned the limited hotel accommodations then still available. The Hotel Del Coronado has for some time been reserved to full capacity, and now the San Diego hotels alone must be depended upon to care for the great gathering of medical visitors to be expected. For a list of these San Diego hotels, see page 209 of the March issue.

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column, which follows.

If, therefore, you are not already enthused regarding the numerous attractions at the San Diego meetings, and decisive as to your own attendance, scan the programs in this issue, and ask yourself if you can really afford to stay away?

MEMBERS OF C. M. A. STANDING COMMITTEES TO MEET AT CORONADO: IMPORTANT THAT ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND THE CONFERENCES

History of the Present Constitution and By-Laws of the California Medical Association.—The present constitution with by-laws of the California Medical Association, after a four-year controversial career in their forming, were adopted by the House of Delegates at the San Diego annual session of 1929. The final form, approved without a single dissenting vote, was based on the draft prepared by a special committee appointed in December, 1926, by Council Chairman O. D. Hamlin. Both the previous constitution and by-laws, and the first draft of the proposed revision as presented by the special committee, were printed on pages 244-258, in the *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* of August, 1927.

* * *

The Provision for "Standing Committees."—The special committee on revision of by-laws, in its transmittal letter to the Council of March 30, 1927 (given on page 248 of the *JOURNAL* for August, 1927), stated that, "In an association as large as that of California, it is very necessary that a practical, centralized, elastic method of organization shall exist, if best results are to be attained"; and in the proposed revision this thought was constantly kept in mind.

Hence, one of the important inclusions in the first draft of the by-laws, adopted in 1929, was contained in "Chapter VII—Committees," and provided for "standing" committees; the previous constitution and by-laws containing no stipulations concerning committees, other than the executive and program committees.

The special committee felt that a group of standing committees, of sufficient number and nature to cover practically all major activities that might come up in organized or scientific medicine, could be of great aid in the further development of the California Medical Association, by making it possible to carry out, in harmonious and efficient manner, those policies to which the House of Delegates of the Association had given its sanction. Through the elimination of a large number of previously existing special committees, that "came and went," the succeeding years have demonstrated the value of the proposed changes; even though the end-results have fallen considerably short of what was hoped could be attained.

* * *

California's Size a Drawback to Committee Conferences.—If California were a state of lesser geographical area than is contained in its almost imperial domain covering a length of 800 miles and a breadth of 200 miles, the members of

the standing committees would have been able to work to much better advantage than has been the case. In short, because of the great distances to be covered by members of a committee, it has been almost impossible to secure meetings; and the Association was not in position to pay the railroad and other expenses involved by having the members of the fifteen standing committees meet with one another once or more yearly, to plan and carry on their work as outlined in the by-laws.

* * *

At San Diego, on March 24, Conferences of Standing Committees Will Be Held.—To overcome these disadvantages, it was proposed, at the March 7 meeting of the Executive Committee, that the Association make an effort to bring together the members of the standing committees for preliminary conference at San Diego, on Sunday, May 24. Association Secretary Warnshuis will send to all members of standing committees additional information concerning the plans. The secretary's minutes of the Executive Committee action read as follows:

"Editor Kress presented a recommendation that the Secretary arrange for a conference of chairmen and committeemen of all standing committees and special committees, for the purpose of becoming more intimately acquainted with the problems of the Association, and for the purpose of making recommendations (on Sunday, May 24, 1936, at Coronado, at 2 p. m.); and that the President and the Secretary be in charge of this Conference; and that notice be sent to the chairmen and members of each committee urging their attendance; and that the Council appropriate a reasonable sum to defray the hotel expense for one extra day for those attending this conference. Carried."

* * *

Every Member of a Standing Committee Should Be at Coronado on May 24.—It goes without saying, therefore, that members of standing committees should show their interest in the Association's work, and a recognition of their responsibilities as committeemen, by being present at this year's first annual session. With the conference meeting on Sunday (for a preliminary discussion of their problems), and contacts and exchange of views on succeeding days, it should be possible for the members of each and every committee to allocate among themselves their duties, so that active studies and work may be energetically carried on during the coming year. If the program materializes as the Council of the Association hopes, the reports of next year's annual session will show real progress in committee work.

—

JOSEPH POMEROY WIDNEY, A.M., M.D., D.D., LL.D., FOUNDER OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION; WHO, AT THE AGE OF 95, STILL CARRIES ON

A Biographical Sketch of Special Interest to California Physicians.—In referring to the absorbing sketch of Joseph Pomeroy Widney, M. D., founder of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, printed in the *Lure of Medical History* department, on page 292, two thoughts come to our mind: